



# POLLUTION CONTROL BEGINS WITH YOU

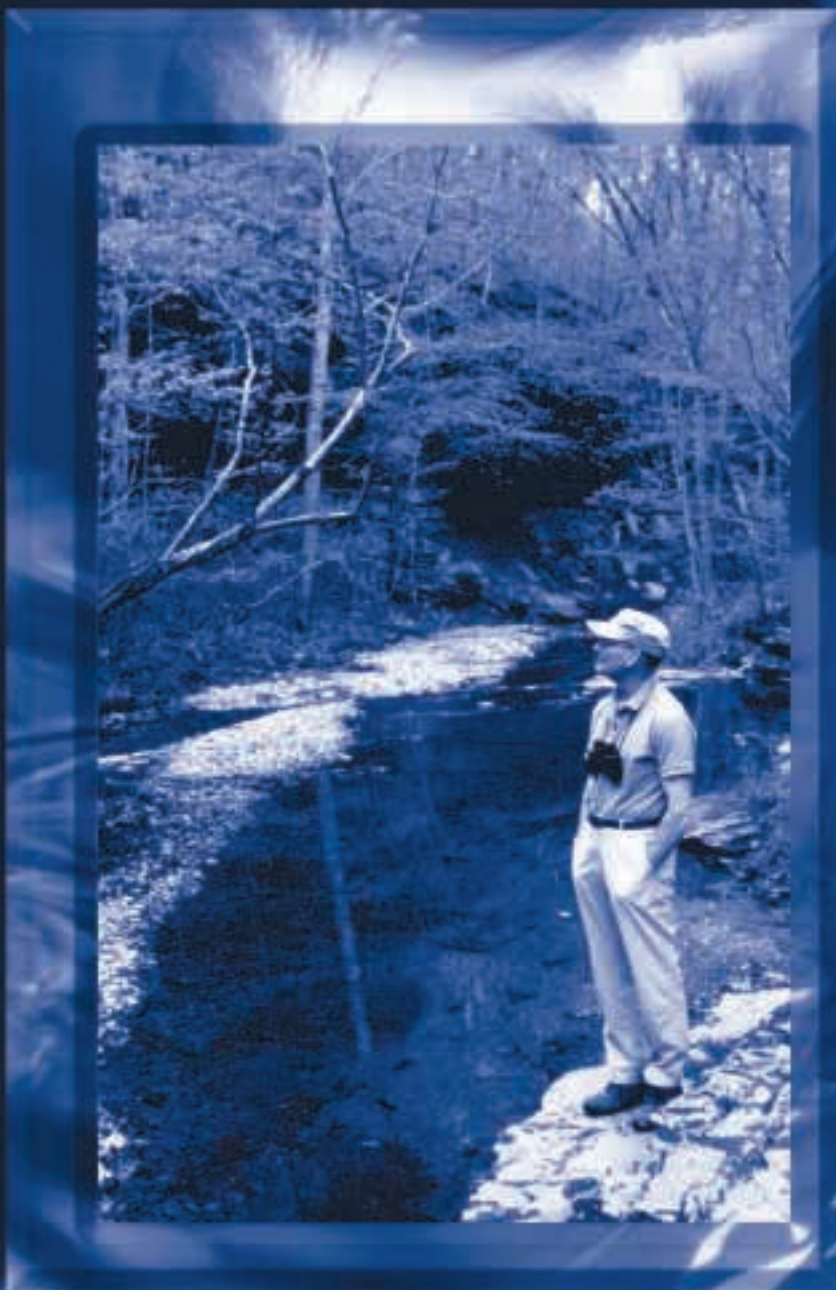
Did you know everything that goes down Davidson County's drainage ditches, gutters, and storm drains flows directly into our waterways. Are you doing your part to prevent water pollution?

## THE CLEAN WATER CHALLENGE

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the primary cause of water quality problems today is not from factories or wastewater treatment plants, but rather something called "nonpoint source pollution." Nonpoint source pollution is runoff from rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation. As it flows into drainage ditches, gutters, and storm drains, it picks up the products of our everyday activities - oil and gasoline, litter, pet wastes, pesticides, fertilizers, wash water, even soil and yard clippings - and eventually deposits them into our waterways. These pollutants can kill aquatic life, limit the use of our waters for recreational and other purposes, and create eyesores.

To address specifically the problem of nonpoint source pollution, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville/Davidson County has developed nonpoint pollution controls aimed at making our waterways more "fishable, swimmable, and environmentally safe." The state of Tennessee, under the direction of our nation's Clean Water Act, has issued the Department of Public Works a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This permit makes us responsible for improving and protecting the quality of waters allowed to enter the "Waters of the State." This means that any ditch, culvert, or conveyance that routes water to area streams and rivers must be kept free of pollutants.

By following the suggestions on the back of this publication, you take an important step in helping to clean up our waterways and assist Metro in meeting its NPDES permit requirements.





# MINIMIZING STORM WATER POLLUTION: WHAT YOU CAN DO

## AROUND THE HOME

- Use household cleaners that are labeled nontoxic and biodegradable, and use the smallest quantity possible.
- Properly use and store all toxic products, including cleaners, solvents, and paints. Clean up spills immediately. Follow label directions regarding container disposal or take to a local collection site.
- Recycle reusable materials, and throw litter into trash cans that are tightly covered.
- Dispose of paint in an environmentally friendly manner. For disposal methods, visit [www.nashville.org/pw/paint.html](http://www.nashville.org/pw/paint.html) or call 615-862-8620.

## IN THE YARD

- Use pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers sparingly and in accordance with label instructions. Do not apply if rain is expected or near ditches, gutters, or storm drains. Use products labeled nontoxic, biodegradable, or water-soluble when possible.



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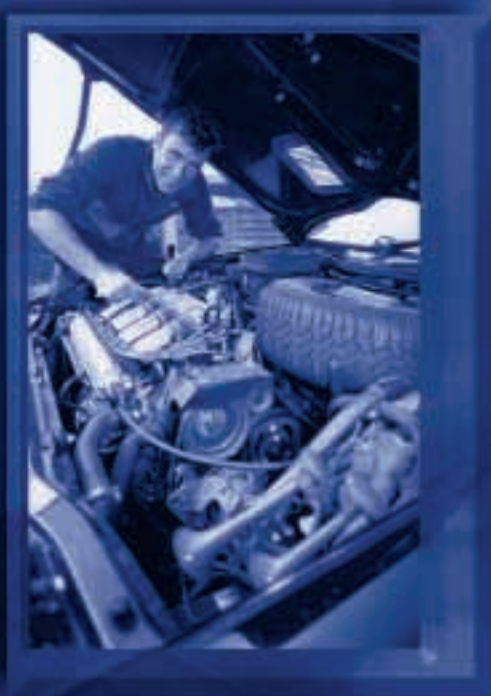
Storm Water Pollution Hotline: **615-313-PURE**  
[www.nashville.org/pw/stormwater.html](http://www.nashville.org/pw/stormwater.html)  
Bill Purcell, Mayor

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- "Go natural" by using natural fertilizers such as compost or bone meal and natural insect repellents, such as marigolds (for nematodes and white flies), soapy water from dishes (for flowers and roses), or spearmint gum (for moles).
- Do not over irrigate - this can cause sediment to wash into storm drains.
- Do not blow, sweep, or rake leaves or grass clippings into gutters or storm drains. Compost yard waste or bag and dispose using solid waste collection programs.
- Divert rainspouts and garden hoses from paved surfaces onto grass.
- Pick up animal wastes and dispose of in garbage cans or by flushing down toilets.

## VEHICLE- AND BOAT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Take used motor oil to a participating oil recycling center. For a list of centers and to find out how to dispose of antifreeze, transmission fluids, engine cleaners, and battery acid, call 615-862-8620 or visit our web site.
- Properly maintain your car or boat to reduce the leakage of oil and other fluids.
- Wash cars on lawns or ground rather than paved surfaces to minimize runoff, and use biodegradable, nonphosphate soap.
- Use marine sanitation devices or pump-out facilities to get rid of boat sewage.
- When spills occur, use kitty litter, sawdust, or wood chips to soak up fluid and dispose in garbage can.



## GENERAL

- Report illicit discharges or illegal dumping into storm drains by calling Metro's storm water pollution hotline at **615-313-PURE**.
- For more information about Metro's solid waste collection programs, please call 615-862-8620.